



Air pollution, human health, climate change and you

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Abstract:

The "co-benefits" of reducing air pollution on climate change and human health. The study by Ko et al in this issue of Thorax (see page 780) provides an important new contribution to the growing body of evidence that the severe adverse health effects of air pollution, so well documented in Europe and North America, are also occurring in Asia. Indeed, a recent report by the Health Effects Institute (HEI) surveyed the available published literature on this topic as part of its Public Health and Air Pollution in Asia-Science Access on the Net (PAPA-SAN) study. They found hundreds of published studies showing adverse health effects of air pollution in Asia and summarised the results on the web (<http://www.healtheffects.org/Asia/papasan-home.htm>). These results show that a wide range of health effects are significantly associated with air pollution exposures in Asia, including studies of respiratory and cardiovascular morbidity and mortality in a number of cities across Asia. In fact, the HEI report identified 69 published studies of the effects of air pollution on the health of populations in Mainland China, 16 in Hong Kong, 56 in Taipei, China, 8 in Indonesia, 2 in Malaysia, 6 in Singapore, 13 in Thailand, 30 in India, 46 in Japan and 33 in South Korea. The study by Ko et al now adds to this knowledge by identifying a susceptible population not studied extensively before in Asia—people suffering from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, the fifth largest cause of death in Hong Kong.

Source: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2117317>

Resource Description

Exposure : ☒

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Air Pollution

Air Pollution: Ozone, Particulate Matter, Other Air Pollution

Air Pollution (other): NO₂;SO₂

Geographic Feature: ☒

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

Geographic Location: ☒

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

Non-United States: Asia

Health Co-Benefit/Co-Harm (Adaption/Mitigation): ☒

specification of beneficial or harmful impacts to health resulting from efforts to reduce or cope with

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

greenhouse gases

A focus of content

Health Impact: 

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Cardiovascular Effect, Respiratory Effect

Cardiovascular Effect: Other Cardiovascular Effect

Cardiovascular Disease (other): cardiovascular disease morbidity and mortality

Respiratory Effect: Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, Other Respiratory Effect

Respiratory Condition (other) : respiratory disease morbidity and mortality

Mitigation/Adaptation: 

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Mitigation

Resource Type: 

format or standard characteristic of resource

Policy/Opinion

Timescale: 

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified